

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07
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O R 071751Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2048
SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILL, AWACS
SUBJECT: NATO AEW - MEETING DATES

REF: STATE 049128 DTG 050050Z MAR 77.

1. ON MARCH 7 AMBASSADOR CONVEYED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED
IN REF TO UK AMBASSADOR KILICK AND FRG AMBASSADOR PAULS.

2. KILICK LISTENED WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT COMMENT EXCEPT TO
STRESS AGAIN THE UK'S WELL KNOW POSITION ON THE NEED FOR A
DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING BY MARCH 25. HE DID AGREE, HOW-
EVER, TO CHECK WITH LONDON ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF APRIL 1 AS
A FALL-BACK DATE FOR THE DEFENSE MINISTERIAL.

3. THE AMBASSADOR COVERED THE POINTS IN REF WITH PAULS, AND
ADDED THAT HE HAD ASKED KILICK TO CHECK WITH LONDON ABOUT
THE APRIL 1 FALL-BACK DATE. PAULS SAID HE WOULD INFORM
BONN OF US VIEWS, BUT THAT ON MARCH
17-18 FRG FINANCIAL EXPERT PADBERG IS
COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN FINAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE DISCUSSIONS ON THE DEFENSE BUDGET,
PREPARATORY TO THE SECOND READING OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET
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IN THE BUNDESTAG. THE FRG WOULD THEREFORE PREFER A
MARCH 21-22 FINANCIAL EXPERTS' MEETING. HE SAID HE
REALIZES THAT THIS TIMING WOULD CAUSE MINISTER MULLEY
SOME DIFFICULTY, BUT HE OPINED THAT MULLEY MIGHT BE
ABLE TO ACCEPT A SLIGHT DELAY IF FINANCIAL EXPERTS WERE
ABLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS.

4. LATER ON MARCH 7, UK NADREP PERRY, IN THE ABSENCE OF
KILICK, CONTACTED DEFAD TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRU-
CTED BY LONDON TO INFORM US THAT AN APRIL 1 DEFENSE

MINISTERS' MEETING IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UK. HE SAID
PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAS TOLD MULLEY THAT THE
MATTER OF NIMROD VS NATO AEW MUST BE SETTLED BY APRIL 1.
PERRY ADDED THAT THE MOD WOULD NEED TIME AFTER
THE DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING TO PREPARE A POSITION FOR
THE CABINET, THAT THE CABINET WOULD NEED AT LEAST 24
HOURS TO CONSIDER THE POSITION AND THAT PROCUREMENT
AUTHORITIES WOULD THEN HAVE TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS
NECESSARY REGARDING THE NIMROD CONTRACT PRIOR TO APRIL
1. WHEN ASKED, PERRY SAID HE WAS SURE THAT MARCH 28
WOULD ALSO BE UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE OF THE REASONS STATED
ABOVE.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, AMBASSADOR INFORMED PAULS OF THE UK
RESPONSE; PAULS SAID HE WOULD PASS THE RESPONSE TO BONN.

6. COMMENT. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO CHICE BUT TO HOLD
THE FINANCIAL EXPERTS' MEETING ON MARCH 21-22 AND THE
DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING ON MARCH 25. WE DO NOT KNOW
IF THE LATTER DATE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG. HOWEVER,
SINCE WE DO KNOW THAT THE SUBJECT WILL BE RAISED
DURING THE PERMREP'S LUNCH ON MARCH 8, WE SHOULD RECEIVE
ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WASHINGTON MAY HAVE PRIOR TO
THAT TIME. END COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED. URGENT
GUIDANCE. STRAUZ-HUPE

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